

NAME: TANAGI, FUVO DATE OF BIRTH: 1892 PLACE OF BIRTH: FUKUSHIMA  
Age:      Sex:      Marital Status: M Education: WOMEN'S NORMAL SCHOOL 4 YRS

## PRE-WAR:

Date of arrival in U.S.: 1919 Age: 27 M.S.      Port of entry: SEATTLE  
Occupation/s: 1. ASST NEWSPAPER WRITER - GROC. STORE (HUSBAND'S)  
Place of residence: 1. SEATTLE 2.      3.       
Religious affiliation: CHRISTIAN  
Community organizations/activities:     

## EVACUATION:

Name of assembly center: DUNALLUP  
Name of relocation center: MINIDOKA  
Dispensation of property: SOLD ITEMS, STORED SOME Names of bank/s: ACCOUNTS FROZEN  
Jobs held in camp: 1. RECREATION DEPT 2.       
Jobs held outside of camp:       
Left camp to go to: ALBANY, N.Y.

## POST-WAR:

Date returned to West Coast: AUGUST 1945  
Address/es: 1. SEATTLE 2.       
3.       
Religious affiliation: CHRISTIAN  
Activities: 1. SHE WAS A MAID - HUSBAND A GARDENER 3.       
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death:     

Name of interviewer: Unlisted Date: ? Place: SEATTLE?  
Translator



OF JAPANESE PEOPLE IN THE U.S.A.

Mrs. Fuyo Tanagi  
棚本 婦代

XII

I. In Japan

- A. Fukushima-ken, Kitakata-shi, Keitoku-machi, Japan.
- B. December 15, 1892.
- C. Sino-Japanese War - no remembrances.  
Russo-Japanese War - recall some military songs.  
World War I - no remembrances.  
Manchurian Event - " "
- D. Recall student days with happiness. The saddest event recalled was my father's death. I cannot recall any tsunamis, plagues, etc.
- E. Buddhist religion.
- F. Heard the gospel story briefly when I attended a Sunday School in my village.
- G. The family owned some land and was considered to be a stable middle-class one. Family and social conditions were peaceful.
- H. 10 years of formal education, grammar through high school. 4 additional years spent at a Women's Normal School.
- I. Married a migrant to the U.S.A. and also was quite curious to see and acquire knowledge about America.

II. On the Ship

- A. Embarked from Yokohama, July 14, 1919. Did not pass through Hawaii.
- B. - - -
- C. Noticed that "picture brides" constituted the majority of the passengers.
- D. The Mexico-Marui, a passenger liner.
- E. Recall listening to the ocean and later singing alone, a church hymn, amid the crashing of the waves against the ship.
- F. Had "great expectations" from America.

III. First Impressions of America.

- A. The first impression of America was of Seattle. I was amazed that such a large city could be so quiet and peaceful. (comparison with Tokyo)
- B. No difficulties were encountered with the immigration authorities and I was quickly passed through.
- C. The first job held was as an assistant writer, compiler of news and advertising, etc. to the editor of the "Hokubei-Jijiji", a Japanese newspaper for the Northwest area. I resigned that job to work with my husband after he bought a grocery store.



III. First Impressions of America cont.

- D. No incidents that were particularly unpleasant can be recalled. We lived in an international district heavily populated by minority races and there were not that many whites.
- E. Not used to common labor because I was a former teacher, I felt working in a grocery store to be a sad experience because it was beneath my dignity.

IV. Settlement

- A. ---
- B. The marriage was arranged by a friend of my brother's, who would be considered a go-between, a "bai-shaku-nin."
- C. A Christian minister officiated at the Tokyo home of the friend who had arranged the marriage.
- D. No.
- E. I was homesick and spent many sleepless nights recalling the happier days when I was a student, especially when I viewed the Puget Sound waters.
- F. The principal hardship was the frustrating communications with the whites because my English was so limited.
- G. No outstanding events.
- H. Had some English in the Normal school and attended some night classes in Seattle and also in the relocation camp.
- I. Estimated amount- \$5000 plus a year.
- J. Rented a home.
- K. No.
- L. No time for hobbies.
- M. The children were sent to a Catholic nursery prior to elementary school, because I had to work in the grocery store.
- N. --
- O. --
- P. --
- Q. Heard of Christ in my teens from one of the teachers in Normal School.

V. Depression Period.

- A. Since the banks were closed and the funds frozen, we found that though we had money in the banks, our checks were not honored and all deals made had to be in cash, and that constituted a hardship.



V. Depression Period

- B. Since our children were all born here, we decided to stay in America.

VI. World War II

- A. Some Caucasians with whom we had business dealings for many years made slurring racial remarks and were suddenly very cold towards us. This upset us.
- B. When we heard about Pearl Harbor, we were speechless with horror and found it quite difficult to believe.
- C. The JACL informed us through a newsletter. I recall reading it during the dinner hour.
- D. We were filled with anxieties when we were told about the coming evacuation. We panicked because we had so short a time in which we were forced to sell all our possessions and pack a few belongings.
- E. We sold what we could in the grocery store at cut prices, stored and gave away the rest of the unsold merchandise. We sold a new '41 Pontiac, house furnishings, etc. at a fraction of the cost to try to get some cash to purchase suitcases, trunks etc. with which to pack and to compound the difficulty all the cash in the bank were also frozen. We gathered at the designated places and rode the buses into the Puyallup Assembly Center, trains took us from there to Hunt, Idaho to our permanent Relocation site.
- F. It appeared to us that the majority of our white friends were for the evacuation. Very few, if any, appeared to feel sorry for us.
- G. As stated in E. above, we sold what we could, stored, burned, and gave away what we could not sell. The total picture of this time, was a depressing one.
- H. A loss is hard to estimate...it was probably about 70 to 80 %.
- I. The ages of the children were, a daughter-21; a son-19; and the youngest daughter-16.
- J. The church disappointed us, we had no moral, spiritual or financial aid and they appeared to be for the evacuation.

VII. Assembly Center, Relocation Center

- A. Puyallup Assembly Center, Area B; and the Minidoka Relocation Center, Hunt, Idaho.
- B. Thoughts of the center bring back the impressions of dusty, hot dry summers and bitter cold winters with the interim period being of mud and rains. The lack of privacy caused by the thin barrack walls, the community kitchens and the great amount of leisure time which caused boredom to set in, caused a lot of mental anguish on top of the already existing physical discomforts.
- C. One incident stands out in my mind, that was when I was taking English classes in the relocation center and some pro-Japanese told us we were wasting our time taking English because the Japanese would win the war. Someone in the class retorted that whichever side won the war, they would need translators so that was the reason we needed to study English. We all laughed at that.



VII. Assembly Center, Relocation Center

- D. The Issei's were upset over the Nisei's being asked to volunteer for the army because they felt that a great injustice had been done and it was a further insult that they asked our sons to volunteer. There was a confrontation with the administrators of the Center and for the first time there was a great show of hostility towards the whites.
- E. We were loyal to the U.S.A. because we intended if possible to stay here since our children were its citizens.
- F. Since the war was with Japan, we felt this to be one of the conditions of war. The fact couldn't be denied that we were Japanese citizens.
- G. I felt that an American citizen should fight for their country.
- H. Since we had community kitchens, we had a lot of leisure time, so I took classes in calligraphy, sewing and knitting, as well as English.
- I. I was on the recreation department's staff and handled the organization of classes to site etc.
- J. My religious life was strengthened through Bible classes, prayer sessions, and Sunday School Worship Hour.
- K. The primary worry was about getting the children educated. The camp school was considered inadequate with uncertified teachers and mostly volunteers from within the community. Leaving camp for college appeared the only solution after the high school in camp.
- L. The leisure time being filled with classes and a deepening religious life gave the camp a positive constructing side.
- M. My faith never wavered.

VIII. Resettlement and Reconstruction

- A. August 28, 1945.
- B. The notice came out that the centers would close and we were free to leave.
- C. Seattle, Washington.
- D. We chose Seattle because we knew the city and were anxious to see what we could retrieve of our possessions.
- E. The first job was with a former White friend who retained me as housemaid and my husband as gardener.
- F. Never lived in a hostel.
- G. No white church assisted us.
- H. The six denominational Christian churches merged into one for financial and various reasons with its ministers rotating on the pulpit. As each denomination gained in number and strength and stability, we divided and started our own churches.



VIII. Resettlement and Reconstruction cont.

- I. The Caucasians were more tolerant of us and the Catholics on the whole treated us better than the Protestants. They offered us jobs and aided us.
- J. My oldest daughter and son attended Washington State College and the youngest daughter attended St. Mary's Nursing School in Rochester, Minn. under the U.S. Cadet Nursing Program.
- K. My youngest daughter located the family who offered us the first job.
- L. Until my youngest daughter returned, our lack of a permanent home was our greatest anxiety. She returned in 1947 and purchased a home that year.

IX. Appendix

- A. My great hope is that my family keep Christ-centered and I wish that I could be more evangelistic. I also am praying for peace and universal brotherhood.